

STJB Year One

Castles

Dear Parents,

This term, our topic is Castles.

In English, we will focus on writing recounts, narratives, and descriptive pieces, while exploring traditional tales and books related to our topic.

In Maths, we will cover place value, starting with numbers up to 20, and after half-term, moving on to numbers up to 50. The children will also develop their understanding of addition and subtraction within 20, and investigate concepts of length, height, weight, and mass.

In Science, the children will explore a range of everyday materials. They will learn to distinguish between the name of an object and the material from which it is made. The children will also identify a variety of everyday materials in their environment and describe their physical properties. Additionally, we will be studying seasonal changes linked to autumn.

In R.E., we are learning to re-tell the Christian Creation story and exploring how this influences the way Christians behave towards nature and the environment. We will also reflect on the Christmas story and discuss what meaningful gifts might be for Jesus.

In History, the children will learn why castles were built and who they were built for. They will identify and name key features of a castle and explain some reasons behind their design. We will study Arundel Castle, and the children will consolidate their learning with a visit to the castle. They will also create a Venn diagram to compare and contrast two different castles.

In Geography, we will explore the difference between human and physical features. The children will take a walk around the school to identify examples of each.

In Education for Safeguarding, we will discuss feelings, particularly focusing on happiness and sadness, and how to cope with change. Through stories and games, the children will also learn about online activities and how to stay safe online. Later in the term, we will explore the concepts of fairness, right and wrong, and deepen our understanding of differences and belonging.

In Art, the children will be introduced to the work of contemporary artist Julian Opie. Through this, they will explore various drawing and painting techniques, learn about primary and secondary colours, and develop their ability to observe and create different textures and patterns.

In Computing, we will focus on developing mouse skills, using a keyboard, and understanding how to use computers safely.

In D.T., the children will explore moving picture books before planning and creating a moving Christmas card.

In Music, the children will listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments, and actions. They will use recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, non-fiction, rhymes, and poems, as well as during role play. The children will also perform songs, rhymes, poems, and stories with others and, when appropriate, try to move in time with the music.

In P.E., we will develop our gymnastic skills by practising balances, rolls, and jumps. The children will also play a variety of games to improve teamwork and ball skills.



This is just an outline of what the children will be exploring during this topic.

Homework

We would like the children to read daily as this will have the biggest impact on your child's learning; please sign their reading diary when you have read together.

We will be sending home weekly maths and phonics tasks to support your child with their learning. Homework will go home on a Thursday and needs handing in the following Tuesday.